Amendments to the Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (original) A legal-for-play long and belly length putter shaft fitment system comprising:

(a) an upper shaft selected from a group of upper shafts,

(b) a lower shaft selected from a group of lower shafts,

(c) a universal coupler for fitting each said upper shaft of said group of upper shafts onto each said lower shaft of said group of lower shafts into interchangeable releasable mating engagement thereon wherein any one said upper shaft of said group of upper shafts is mated onto any one said lower shaft of said group of lower shafts,

said coupler comprising first and second sections, said first sections mounted to said group of upper shafts, said second sections mounted to said group of lower shafts,

said first and second sections non-rotatably mountable to each other by a male correspondingly shaped non circular annular flange on one of said sections slidably mating along a longitudinal axis of said upper and lower shafts into a female non circular flange relief in the other of said sections, locking means for releasably locking said flange into said flange relief,

wherein said groups of upper and lower shafts include respectively upper and lower shafts of different lengths.

2. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein said group of upper shafts includes upper shafts having lengths ranging from 6.5 inches and longer.

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 2 wherein said group of lower shafts includes at least belly length shafts having lengths ranging from eighteen~~twenty~~ inches and longer.

4. (original) The system of claim 2 wherein said group of lower shafts includes at least long length shafts having lengths ranging from eighteen inches and longer.

5. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein said first section is a cylindrical body mountable at a first end thereof to a lower end of said upper shaft and having at an opposite second end, said non circular annular flange extending therefrom,

and wherein said second section is a cylindrical body mountable at a first end thereof to an upper end of said lower shaft and having, at an opposite second end, said non circular annular relief formed therein.

6. (original) The system of claim 5 wherein said non circular annular flange is a rigid member having a non-round cross-section in a plane orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, and wherein said flange relief is a correspondingly shaped cavity for snug sliding fitment of said non circular annular flange into said flange relief so as to prevent rotation of said flange about said longitudinal axis relative to said flange relief.

7. (original) The system of claim 6 wherein said locking means is a threaded collar slidably and rotatably mounted on said cylindrical body of said upper shaft section, and wherein said second end of said second section has threads formed thereon for threaded mating with said threads on said collar, said first section having a non circular annular flange on said second end,

said collar for clamping said flange against said second end of said second section when threaded onto said threads on said second end of said second section.

8. (original) A legal-for-play long and belly length putter shaft fitment method comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting an upper shaft from a group of upper shafts,
(b) selecting a lower shaft from a group of lower shafts,

(c) providing a universal coupler and fitting one said upper shaft of said group of upper shafts onto one said lower shaft of said group of lower shafts into interchangeable releasable mating engagement thereon wherein any one said upper shaft of said group of upper shafts is mated onto any one said lower shaft of said group of lower shafts,

wherein said coupler comprises first and second sections, said first sections mounted to said group of upper shafts, said second sections mounted to said group of lower shafts,

said first and second sections non-rotatably mountable to each other by a non circular annular flange on one of said sections slidably mating along a longitudinal axis of said upper and lower shafts into a female flange relief in the other of said sections, locking means for releasably locking said flange into said flange relief,

wherein said groups of upper and lower shafts include respectively upper and lower shafts of different lengths.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said step of selecting an upper shaft from said group of upper shafts includes selecting a length of shaft from upper shafts having lengths ranging from 6.5 inches and longer.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said step of selecting a lower shaft from said group of lower shafts includes selecting belly length putter shafts from belly length putter shafts having lengths ranging from eighteen inches and longer.

11. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said step of selecting a lower shaft from said group of lower shafts includes selecting long length shafts from long length putter shafts having lengths ranging from eighteen inches and longer.

12. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said first section is a cylindrical body mountable at a first end thereof to a lower end of said upper shaft and having at an opposite second end, said non circular annular flange extending therefrom,

and wherein said second section is a cylindrical body mountable at a first end thereof to an upper end of said lower shaft and having, at an opposite second end, said flange relief formed therein,

wherein said non circular annular flange is a rigid member having a non-round cross-section in a plane orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, and wherein said flange relief is a correspondingly shaped cavity for snug sliding fitment of said non circular annular flange into said flange relief so as to prevent rotation of said non circular annular flange about said longitudinal axis relative to said flange relief,

and wherein said step of fitting an upper shaft onto a lower shaft includes sliding said non circular annular flange into said flange receiver.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein said locking means is a threaded collar slidably and rotatably mounted on said cylindrical body of said upper shaft section, and wherein said second end of said second section has threads formed thereon for threaded mating with said threads on said collar, said first section having a non circular annular flange on said second end,

said collar for clamping said non circular annular flange against said second end of said second section when threaded onto said threads on said second end of said second section,

further comprising the steps of locking said first section onto said second section by threading and tightening said collar onto said second section.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein said annular flange is of non round scalloped cross section mating with corresponding non round scalloped relief in said receiver section.

15. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein said annular flange includes a singular axis asymmetrical non round cross section and said female flange relief has a corresponding singular axis asymmetrical non round relief.

16. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein said annular flange includes bi axis asymmetrical non round cross section and said female flange relief has a corresponding bi axis asymmetrical relief.

17. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein said annular flange is asymmetric and said female flange relief has a corresponding asymmetry.

18. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein said annular flange includes a singular axis asymmetrical non round cross section and said female flange relief has a corresponding singular axis asymmetrical non round relief.

19. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein said annular flange includes bi axis asymmetrical non round cross section and said female flange relief has a corresponding bi axis asymmetrical relief.

20. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein said annular flange is asymmetric and said female flange relief has a corresponding asymmetry.